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Commission on the Status of Women
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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Angola,* Botswana, Gabon, Ghana,* Lesotho,* Malawi, Mozambique,* Namibia,* Rwanda,* Somalia,* South Africa, Timor-Leste,* United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia* and Zimbabwe:* draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 47/1 of 10 March 2003, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",

Recalling the agreed conclusions adopted at its forty-sixth session, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",

Recalling also the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 19.

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world fit for children",[3] and recognizing that their implementation is a major contribution to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of children,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS",

Noting with grave concern that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the pandemic,

Noting also that women's unequal legal and social status heightens their vulnerability to HIV,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and in particular women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes a global emergency, and that it disproportionately affects women and girls, and emphasizing that violence against women and girls as well as social, cultural, biological and economic factors can increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, to continue to implement the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

3. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

4. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender sensitive framework;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to challenge gender stereotypes, stigmatization, attitudes and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys;

6. *Encourages* the continued collaboration and cooperation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies to cope with the growing links between HIV/AIDS and other humanitarian programmes;

[3] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

7. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

8. *Also welcomes* the commitment by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to 3 million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, the "3 by 5" target, recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/29 of 29 April 2003, entitled "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria";

9. *Encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

10. *Emphasizes* the rapid scaling up of programmes for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and ensuring that levels of uptake are sufficient to achieve the desired public health impact and encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of young men and women having access to information, education, including peer education and youth specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full participation with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

12. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

13. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects;

14. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and also from national budgets in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his comprehensive and analytical report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, in particular those set out for 2005, with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress as requested in General Assembly resolution 58/236, to take a gender perspective fully into account.